

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 20, line 2, as follows:

The depth of the groove for pressure reduction is suitably such that the elastic member sandwiched between the sheet materials in the stretched state may fit into the groove. Where the elastic member fits neatly into the groove, the sheet materials can be heat sealed at positions on each side of the elastic member without damaging the elastic member. Tight fit of the elastic member provides resistance against the elastic member's contraction and keeps the elastic member in the position without allowing the elastic member ~~[[toget]]~~ to get out of position. When the groove is shallow, heat sealing is accompanied by damage to the elastic member. In this situation, although there is a possibility that the extension and contraction capabilities of the elastic member is reduced, positioning of the elastic member is further ensured because the elastic member is fusion bonded inclusively together with the two sheet materials.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 32, line 13, as follows:

The extensible composite members according to the third and fifth aspects of the invention have gathers (an extensible portion with many folds) which are ~~flexible~~, flexible, soft and smooth to the touch, and provide an absorbent article, etc. with such gathers.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 32, line 16, as follows:

The methods of making an extensible composite member according to the fourth and sixth aspects of the invention provide with ease an extensible composite member having gathers (an extensible portion with many folds) which are ~~flexible~~, flexible, soft and smooth to the touch.